

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

New Jersey

COUNTY:

Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

OCT 5 1972

1. NAME

Common:

St. Stephan's Church (United Church of Christ)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. Stephan's Evangelical and Reformed Church (German)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Ferry Street and Wilson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☒ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

St. Stephan's Church (United Church of Christ)

STREET AND NUMBER:

Ferry Street and Wilson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Newark

STATE:

New Jersey

CODE

34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Newark

STATE:

New Jersey

CODE

34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☒ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Office of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:

Trenton

STATE:

New Jersey

CODE

34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

H15
2518
N 4505610

STATE:

New Jersey

COUNTY:

Essex

OCT 5 1972

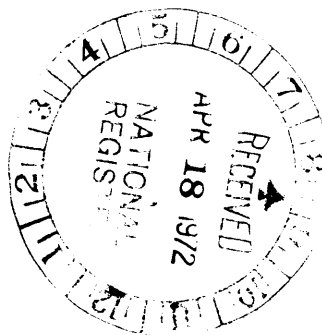
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. Description

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
The church is in good condition, interior and exterior. Its red-brick exterior is trimmed with white wood casings and topped by a white steeple, which in symmetrical plan and detailing is suggestive of Georgian colonial meetinghouse churches, but the exterior belongs more literally, perhaps, to the mid-19th century Romanesque Revival. A beautiful rose window occupies the upper central portion of the facade; by day the white wood tracery prevails, at night its lighted rich-colored stained glass dominates. Unfortunately, the rose window was not meant to be seen from the interior, as the area near it in the balcony choir loft is unfinished and behind the pipe organ. The original apse was semi-circular, but has been added onto on the rear. It was once, however, a 2-level apse, with the upper level covering the whole apse and containing the pulpit to which the pastor ascended for the sermon. This was changed, however, to even more unique treatment many years ago when the "German beer baron" Hensler, a member whose brewery stood nearby until c. 1960, donated imported German wood carved reredos, with a pulpit contained within it. The area under the headboard, occupied by the pastor during the sermon, is occupied by a rotating statue during the rest of the service. This merry-go-round alternation of pastor and statue is reminiscent of Bavarian or Swiss artifacts such as the rotating bell ringers of the Town Hall Clock Tower of Munich. The wood carving is all in elaborate Gothic. This most unique merry-go-round pulpit is reached by ascending steps to the side-rear. A fold-out lectern completes the pulpit. The rear balcony choir is large and protrudes forward from around the organ in the shape of a portion of an octagon which echoes the pulpit at the opposite end.						



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

built 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☒ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephan's has many valid claims to distinction:

On April 19, 1874 Mr. G. Stahlin, the architect, presented his plans for the erection of the church edifice. The cost of the building was estimated at \$17,000. Ground was broken on Tuesday morning May 26, 1874 and the cornerstone was laid June 21, 1874.

This is an exceptionally quaint anchor feature at the head of an extended street vista, dominating, by its artistry rather than its size, the principal business street of the old-worldish Ironbound Section of Newark.

It has an interesting history as the most strategically situated German Protestant church in this polyglot area of the city, which history is not fully reported here. The church organization is an offshoot of another German Church - Wolff Memorial.

In addition to its many endearing and quaint architectural features, the visual and symbolic relationship to its neighborhood make it a must for retention, lest there be a gaping void at this key but vulnerable location for an old church - at the fork of two main streets.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Stephan's Church 1874-1949 "The 75th Anniversary Souvenir" , a copy in Newark Public Library, Newark, New Jersey

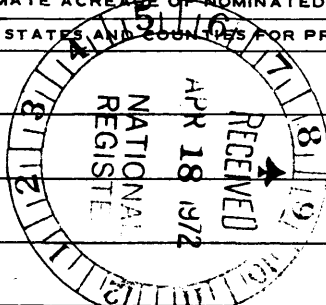
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 43' 39"	74° 09' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Donald W. Geyer, Licensed professional planner & architectural Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
	6/8/71
STREET AND NUMBER:	
351 Broad Street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Newark	New Jersey
	CODE
	34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Richard J. Sullivan

Title Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Roger J. Wiley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/5/72

ATTEST:
William M. Mundy
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-3-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

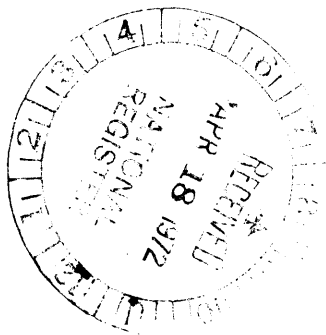
STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 5 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. Stephan's Church (United Church of Christ)
New Jersey Code: 34
Essex Co. Code: 013

Congressional Representation

Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Congressman (10th District)
Clifford P. Case, U. S. Senator
Harrison A. Williams, U. S. Senator





NPS Number Oct. 5, 1972

Title: St. Stephan's Church
(United Church of Christ)

Loc. Essex Co., New Jersey
front, from west,
featuring arched entrance

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

front, from w.

SUBJECT: St. Stephan's Ch. (U.C.C.)

LOCALITY: Newark, N.J.

SOURCE: D.W. Geyer

(formerly
Ev. & Ref.)

1971